AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

1.   (Previously presented) An e-mail transmission/reception system including a mail terminal, a mail server, and a mail gateway, wherein said mail gateway is connected to said mail terminal via a network and to said mail server via another network,

wherein said mail server comprises:

an attached file holding unit operable to receive an e-mail addressed to a user who possesses said mail terminal and hold a plurality of attached files included in the e-mail; and

a mail distribution unit operable to receive a file attached e-mail transmitted from said mail gateway and distribute the file attached e-mail to a respective address of one or more receivers of the e-mail;

wherein said mail gateway comprises:

an identifier generation unit operable to generate a unique identifier for each of the attached files held by said attached file holding unit, respectively;

a list transmission unit operable to generate a list of the identifiers generated by said identifier generation unit and transmit the identifier list to said mail terminal;

a reception unit operable to receive an attached-file specifying e-mail transmitted from said mail terminal, the attached-file specifying e-mail including at least one identifier among the unique identifiers generated by said identifier generation unit for each of the plurality of attached files held by said attached file holding unit;

an attached file acquisition unit operable to acquire at least one attached file from said attached file holding unit, the at least one attached file corresponding to the at least one identifier included in the attached-file specifying e-mail received by said reception unit;

a construction unit operable to construct a file attached e-mail by attaching the at least one attached file acquired by said attached file acquisition unit to the attached-file specifying e-mail received by said reception unit; and

a mail transmission unit operable to transmit the file attached e-mail constructed by said construction unit to said mail server; and

wherein said mail terminal comprises:

a list reception unit operable to receive the identifier list from said mail gateway;

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a preparation unit operable to prepare the attached-file specifying e-mail including the at least one identifier selected by the user among the unique identifiers from the identifier list as a substitute for at least one attached file that the user wants to attach to the e-mail; and

a transmission unit operable to transmit the prepared attached-file specifying e-mail to said mail gateway.

2.　(Previously presented)　The e-mail transmission/reception system of Claim 1, wherein:

said attached file holding unit is operable to, whenever receiving an e-mail that includes attached files, generate a list of the attached files and pass the list of the attached files to said identifier generation unit; and

said identifier generation unit is operable to generate the unique identifier for each of the attached files, respectively, in accordance with the list of the attached files passed by said attached file holding unit.

3.　(Previously presented)　The e-mail transmission/reception system of Claim 1, wherein said mail terminal further comprises:

a file format registration unit operable to register one or more file formats of attached files for each receiver's address that the receiver should adopt in said mail gateway;

wherein said mail gateway further comprises:

a file format storage unit operable to store receivers' addresses and file formats that are registered by said file format registration unit; and

a file format conversion unit operable to convert a file format of each attached file for each receiver's address in accordance with the receivers' addresses and the file formats that are stored in the said format storage unit; and

wherein said construction unit is operable to construct the file attached e-mail by attaching each attached file converted by said file format conversion unit from and as a substitute for each attached file acquired by said attached file acquisition unit, respectively.

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4.   (Previously presented) The e-mail transmission/reception system of Claim 1,
wherein said mail terminal further comprises:

a sharing notification unit operable to notify said mail gateway that one or more attached files included in an e-mail addressed to the user of said mail terminal are to be shared with other users;
wherein said mail gateway further comprises:

an attached file sharing unit operable to, when receiving the notification that the one or more attached files are to be shared with the other users from said mail terminal, share each of the attached files held by said attached file holding unit with the other users; and

a shared identifier generation unit operable to generate a shared identifier for each of the attached files shared by said attached file sharing unit, the shared identifier being available for sharers of the attached files;
wherein said sharing notification unit includes:

a shared file notification unit operable to notify said mail gateway of one or more identifiers selected by the user from the identifier list as substitutes for the one or more attached files that are permitted to be shared; and

a sharer notification unit operable to notify said mail gateway of one or more sharers of each of the attached files that are to be shared with the other users;

wherein said attached file sharing unit is operable to share attached files that correspond to the identifiers notified from said shared file notification unit among attached files held by said attached file holding unit with the sharers notified from said sharer notification unit;

wherein said list transmission unit is further operable to transmit a list of the shared identifiers to the sharers of the attached files;

wherein said attached file acquisition unit is further operable to acquire attached files that correspond to the shared identifiers; and

wherein said list reception unit is further operable to receive a list of shared identifiers that have a one to one correspondence to each of the attached files that are shared by the user of said mail terminal as one member of the sharers.

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5.   (Previously presented) An e-mail transmission/reception system including a mail
terminal and a mail gateway, said mail gateway being connected to said mail terminal via a
network,

wherein said mail gateway comprises:

an attached file holding unit operable to receive an e-mail addressed to a user who
possesses said mail terminal and hold a plurality of attached files included in the e-mail;

an identifier generation unit operable to generate a unique identifier for each of
the attached files held by said attached file holding unit, respectively;

a list transmission unit operable to generate a list of the identifiers generated by
said identifier generation unit and transmit the identifier list to said mail terminal;

a reception unit operable to receive an attached-file specifying e-mail transmitted
from said mail terminal, the attached-file specifying email including at least one
identifier among the unique identifiers generated by said identifier generation unit for
each of the attached files held by said attached file holding unit;

an attached file acquisition unit operable to acquire at least one attached file from
said attached file holding unit, the at least one attached file corresponding to the at least
one identifier included in the attached-file specifying e-mail received by said reception
unit;

a construction unit operable to construct a file attached e-mail by attaching the at
least one attached file acquired by said attached file acquisition unit to the attached-file
specifying e-mail received by said reception unit; and

a mail distribution unit operable to distribute the file attached e-mail constructed
by said construction unit to a respective address of one or more receivers of the e-mail;
and

wherein said mail terminal comprises:

a list reception unit operable to receive the identifier list from said mail gateway;

a preparation unit operable to prepare the attached-file specifying e-mail including
the at least one identifier selected by the user among the unique identifiers from the
identifier list as a substitute for at least one attached file that the user wants to attach to
the e-mail; and

a transmission unit operable to transmit the attached-file specifying e-mail

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prepared by said preparation unit to said mail gateway.

6.   (Previously presented) The e-mail transmission/reception system of Claim 5, wherein:

said attached file holding unit is operable to, whenever receiving an e-mail that includes attached files, generate a list of the attached files and pass the list of the attached files to said identifier generation unit; and

said identifier generation unit is operable to generate the unique identifier for each of the attached files, respectively, in accordance with the list of the attached files passed by said attached file holding unit.

7.   (Previously presented) The e-mail transmission/reception system of Claim 5,

wherein said mail terminal further comprises:

a file format registration unit operable to register one or more file formats of attached files for each receiver's address that the receiver should adopt in said mail gateway;

wherein said mail gateway further comprises:

a file format storage unit operable to store receivers' addresses and file formats that are registered by said file format registration unit; and

a file format conversion unit operable to convert a file format of each attached files for each receiver's address in accordance with the receivers' addresses and the file formats that are stored in said file format storage unit; and

wherein said construction unit is operable to construct the file attached e-mail by attaching each attached file converted by said file format conversion unit from and as a substitute for each attached file acquired by said attached file acquisition unit, respectively.

8.   (Previously presented) The e-mail transmission/reception system of Claim 5,

wherein said mail terminal further comprises:

a sharing notification unit operable to notify said mail gateway that one or more attached files included in the e-mail addressed to the user of said mail terminal are to be shared with other users;

wherein said mail gateway further comprises:

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an attached file sharing unit operable to, when receiving the notification that the one or more attached files are to be shared with the other users from said mail terminal, share each of the attached files held by said attached file holding unit with the other users; and

a shared identifier generation unit operable to generate a shared identifier for each of the attached files shared by said attached file sharing unit, the shared identifier being available for sharers of the attached files;

wherein said sharing notification unit includes:

a shared file notification unit operable to notify said mail gateway of one or more identifiers selected by the user from the identifier list as substitutes for the one or more attached files that are permitted to be shared; and

a sharer notification unit operable to notify said mail gateway of one or more sharers of each of the attached files that are to be shared with the other users;

wherein said attached file sharing unit is operable to share attached files that correspond to the identifiers notified from said shared file notification unit among attached files held by said attached file holding unit with the sharers notified from said sharer notification unit;

wherein said list transmission unit is further operable to transmit a list of the shared identifiers to the sharers of the attached files;

wherein said attached file acquisition unit is further operable to acquire attached files that correspond to the shared identifiers; and

wherein said list reception unit is further operable to receive a list of shared identifiers that have a one to one correspondence to each of the attached files that are shared by the user of said mail terminal as one member of the sharers.

9.   (Previously presented) A mail gateway that is connected to a mail terminal via a network and a mail server via another network, the mail server receiving an e-mail addressed to a user of the mail terminal and holding a plurality of attached files included in the received e-mail, said mail gateway comprising:

an identifier generation unit operable to generate a unique identifier for each of the plurality of attached files held by the mail server, respectively;

a list transmission unit operable to generate a list of the identifiers generated by said

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identifier generation unit and transmit the identifier list to the mail terminal;

a reception unit operable to receive an attached-file specifying e-mail transmitted from the mail terminal, the attached-file specifying email including at least one identifier among the unique identifiers generated by said identifier generation unit for each of the plurality of attached files held by said attached file holding unit;

an attached file acquisition unit operable to acquire at least one attached file from the mail server, the at least one attached file corresponding to the at least one identifier included in the attached-file specifying e-mail received by said reception unit;

a construction unit operable to construct a file attached e-mail by attaching the at least one attached file acquired by said attached file acquisition unit to the attached-file specifying e-mail received by said reception unit; and

a mail transmission unit operable to transmit the file attached e-mail constructed by said construction unit to the mail server.

10.   (Previously presented) The mail gateway of Claim 9, wherein:

the mail server functions, whenever receiving an e-mail that includes attached files, so as to generate a list of the attached files and pass the list of the attached files to said mail gateway; and

said identifier generation unit is operable to generate the unique identifier for each of the attached files, respectively, in accordance with the list of the attached files passed by the mail server.

11.   (Previously presented) The mail gateway of Claim 9, further comprising:

a file format storage unit operable to store receivers' addresses and file formats that are registered by the mail terminal; and

a file format conversion unit operable to convert one or more file formats of attached files for each receiver's address in accordance with the receivers' addresses and the file formats that are stored in said file format storage unit;

wherein the mail terminal functions so as to register the one or more file formats of attached files for each receiver's address that the receiver should adopt in said mail gateway; and

wherein said construction unit is operable to construct the file attached e-mail by

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attaching each attached file converted by said file format conversion unit from and as substitutes for each attached file acquired by said attached file acquisition unit, respectively.

12.   (Previously presented) The mail gateway of Claim 9, further comprising:

an attached file sharing unit operable to, when receiving a notification that attached files are to be shared with other users from the mail terminal, share each of the attached files held by the mail server with the other users;

a shared identifier generation unit operable to generate a shared identifier for each of the attached files shared by said attached file sharing unit, the shared identifier being available for sharers of the attached files;

wherein the mail terminal functions so as to notify said mail gateway that one or more attached files are to be shared with other users by means of identifiers respectively corresponding to the one or more attached files, the attached files being included in e-mail addressed to the user of the mail terminal and being permitted to be shared with other users, and notify said mail gateway of the one or more sharers who are to share the one or more attached files;

wherein said attached file sharing unit is operable to share the one or more attached files that correspond to the one or more identifiers notified from the mail terminal out of attached files held by the mail server among the notified sharers;

wherein said list transmission unit is further operable to transmit a list of the shared identifiers to the sharers of the attached files; and

wherein said attached file acquisition unit is further operable to acquire attached files that correspond to the shared identifiers.

13.   (Previously presented) A mail gateway that is connected to a mail terminal via a network, said mail gateway comprising:

an attached file holding unit operable to receive an e-mail addressed to a user who possesses the mail terminal and hold a plurality of attached files included in the e-mail;

an identifier generation unit operable to generate a unique identifier for each of the attached files held by said attached file holding unit, respectively;

a list transmission unit operable to generate a list of the identifiers generated by said identifier generation unit and transmit the identifier list to the mail terminal;

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a reception unit operable to receive an attached-file specifying e-mail transmitted from the mail terminal, the attached-file specifying e-mail including at least one identifier among the unique identifiers generated by said identifier generation unit for each of the plurality of attached files held by said attached file holding unit;

an attached file acquisition unit operable to acquire at least one attached file from said attached file holding unit, the at least one attached file corresponding to the at least one identifier included in the attached-file specifying e-mail received by said reception unit;

a construction unit operable to construct a file attached e-mail by attaching the at least one attached file acquired by said attached file acquisition unit to the attached-file specifying e-mail received by said reception unit; and

a mail distribution unit operable to distribute the file attached e-mail constructed by said construction unit to a respective address of one or more receivers of the e-mail.

14. (Previously presented) The mail gateway of Claim 13, wherein:

said attached file holding unit is operable to, whenever receiving an e-mail that includes attached files, generate a list of the attached files and pass the list of the attached files to said identifier generation unit; and

said identifier generation unit is operable to generate the unique identifier for each of the attached files, respectively, in accordance with the list of the attached files passed by said attached file holding unit.

15. (Previously presented) The mail gateway of Claim 13, further comprising:

a file format storage unit operable to store receivers' addresses and file formats that are registered by the mail terminal; and

a file format conversion unit operable to convert one or more file formats of attached files for each receiver's address in accordance with the receivers' addresses and the file formats that are stored in said file format storage unit,

wherein the mail terminal functions so as to register the one or more file formats of attached files for each receiver's address that the receiver should adopt in said mail gateway, and

said construction unit is operable to construct the file attached e-mail by attaching each attached file converted by said file format conversion unit from and as a substitute for each

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attached file acquired by said attached file acquisition unit, respectively.

16.   (Previously presented) The mail gateway of Claim 13, further comprising:

an attached file sharing unit operable to, when receiving a notification that attached files are to be shared with other users from the mail terminal, share each of the attached files held by said attached file holding unit with the other users; and

a shared identifier generation unit operable to generate a shared identifier for each of the attached files shared by said attached file sharing unit, wherein the shared identifier is available for sharers of the attached files;

wherein the mail terminal functions so as to notify said mail gateway that one or more attached files are to be shared with other users by means of identifiers respectively corresponding to the one or more attached files, the attached files being included in e-mail addressed to the user of the mail terminal and being permitted to be shared with the other users, and notify said mail gateway of one or more sharers who share the one or more attached files;

wherein said attached file sharing unit is operable to share the one or more attached files that correspond to the one or more identifiers notified from the mail terminal out of attached files held by the mail server among the notified sharers;

wherein said list transmission unit is further operable to transmit a list of the shared identifiers to the sharers of the attached files; and

wherein said attached file acquisition unit is further operable to acquire attached files that correspond to the shared identifiers.

17.   (Previously presented) A mail terminal that is connected to a mail gateway via a network, the mail gateway generating a respectively unique identifier for each of a plurality of attached files included in an e-mail addressed to a user of said mail terminal and managing the generated identifiers, said mail terminal comprising:

a list reception unit operable to receive a list of the unique identifiers from the mail gateway for each of the plurality of attached files included in the e-mail;

a preparation unit operable to prepare an attached-file specifying e-mail that includes at least one identifier selected by the user among the unique identifiers from the identifier list as a substitute for at least one attached file that the user wants to attach to the e-mail, the at least one

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identifier selected by the user corresponding to the at least one attached file that the user wants to attach to the e-mail; and

a transmission unit operable to transmit the attached-file specifying e-mail prepared by said preparation unit to the mail gateway.

18.   (Previously presented) The mail terminal of Claim 17, further comprising:

a file format registration unit operable to register one or more file formats of attached files for each receiver's address that the receiver should adopt in the mail gateway;

wherein the mail gateway functions so as to store receivers' addresses and file formats that are registered by said mail terminal, and convert file formats of attached files for each receiver's address in accordance with the stored receivers' addresses and file formats.

19.   (Previously presented) The mail terminal of Claim 17, further comprising:

a sharing notification unit operable to notify the mail gateway that one or more attached files included in an e-mail addressed to the user of said mail terminal are to be shared with other users;

wherein said sharing notification unit includes:

a shared file notification unit operable to notify the mail gateway of one or more identifiers selected by the user from the identifier list as substitutes for the one or more attached files that are permitted to be shared; and

a sharer notification unit operable to notify the mail gateway of one or more sharers of each of the attached files that are permitted to be shared with the other users; and

wherein the mail gateway functions so as to share attached files respectively corresponding to the identifiers notified from said shared file notification unit among the sharers notified from said sharer notification unit and generate a shared identifier for each of the shared attached files, the shared identifier being available for the sharers.

20.   (Currently amended) A method for controlling an e-mail transmission/reception system including a mail terminal, a mail server, and a mail gateway, the mail gateway being connected to the mail terminal via a network and to the mail server via another network, said method

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comprising:

receiving, in the mail server, an e-mail addressed to a user who possesses the mail terminal and holding a plurality of attached files included in the e-mail in the mail server;

generating, in the mail gateway, a unique identifier for each of the attached files held in said holding of the plurality of attached files, respectively;

generating, in the mail gateway, a list of the identifiers generated in said generating of the unique identifiers for each of the attached files, and transmitting the identifier list from the mail gateway to the mail terminal;

receiving, in the mail terminal, the identifier list from the mail gateway;

preparing, in the mail terminal, an attached-file specifying e-mail that includes at least one identifier selected by the user among the unique identifiers from the identifier list as a substitute for at least one attached file that the user wants to attach to the e-mail;

transmitting the attached-file specifying e-mail prepared in said preparing of the attached-file specifying e-mail from the mail terminal to the mail gateway;

receiving, in the mail gateway, the attached-file specifying e-mail transmitted in said transmitting of the attached-file specifying e-mail;

acquiring, in the mail gateway, at least one attached file from the mail server, the at least one attached file corresponding to the at least one identifier included in the attached-file specifying e-mail received in said receiving of the attached-file specifying e-mail;

constructing, in the mail gateway, a file attached e-mail by attaching the at least one attached file acquired in said acquiring of the at least one attached file to the attached-file specifying e-mail received in said receiving of the attached-file specifying e-mail;

transmitting the file attached e-mail constructed in said constructing of the file attached e-mail from the mail gateway to the mail server; and

receiving, in the mail server, the file attached e-mail transmitted in said transmitting of the file attached e-mail and distributing the file attached e-mail from the mail server to a respective address of one or more receivers of the e-mail.

21-23. (Cancelled)

24.   (Currently amended) A method for controlling an e-mail transmission/reception system including a mail terminal and a mail gateway, the mail gateway being connected to the mail terminal via a network, said method comprising:

receiving, in the mail gateway, an e-mail addressed to a user who possesses the mail terminal and holding a plurality of attached files included in the e-mail in the mail gateway;

generating, in the mail gateway, a unique identifier for each of the attached files held in said holding of the plurality of attached files, respectively;

generating, in the mail gateway, a list of the identifiers generated in said generating of the unique identifiers for each of the attached files, and transmitting the identifier list from the mail gateway to the mail terminal;

receiving, in the mail terminal, the identifier list generated in said generating of the identifier list from the mail gateway;

preparing, in the mail terminal, an attached-file specifying e-mail that includes at least one identifier selected by the user among the unique identifiers from the identifier list as a substitute for at least one attached file that the user wants to attach to the e-mail;

transmitting the attached-file specifying e-mail prepared in said preparing of the attached-file specifying e-mail from the mail terminal to the mail gateway;

receiving, in the mail gateway, the attached-file specifying e-mail transmitted from the mail terminal to the mail gateway in said transmitting of the attached-file specifying e-mail;

acquiring, in the mail gateway, at least one attached file held in said holding of the plurality of attached files, the at least one attached file corresponding to the at least one identifier included in the attached-file specifying e-mail received in said receiving of the attached-file specifying e-mail;

constructing, in the mail gateway, a file attached e-mail by attaching the at least one attached file acquired in said acquiring of the at least one attached file to the attached-file specifying e-mail received in said receiving of the attached-file specifying e-mail; and

distributing the file attached e-mail constructed in said constructing of the file attached e-mail to a respective address of one or more receivers of the e-mail.

25-27. (Cancelled)

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28.   (Previously presented) A method for controlling a mail gateway that is connected to a mail terminal via a network and to a mail server via another network, the mail server receiving an e-mail addressed to a user of the mail terminal and holding a plurality of attached files included in the received e-mail, said method comprising:

generating a unique identifier for each of the plurality of attached files held by the mail server, respectively;

generating a list of the identifiers generated in said generating of the unique identifiers for each of the plurality of attached files, and transmitting the identifier list to the mail terminal;

receiving an attached-file specifying e-mail transmitted from the mail terminal, the attached-file specifying e-mail including at least one identifier among the unique identifiers generated in said generating of the unique identifiers for each of the plurality of attached files;

acquiring at least one attached file from the mail server, the at least one attached file corresponding to the at least one identifier included in the attached-file specifying e-mail received in said receiving of the attached-file specifying e-mail;

constructing a file attached e-mail by attaching the at least one attached file acquired in said acquiring of the at least one attached file to the attached-file specifying e-mail received in said receiving of the attached-file specifying e-mail; and

transmitting the file attached e-mail constructed in said constructing of the file attached e-mail to the mail server.

29-31. (Cancelled)

32.   (Currently amended) A method for controlling a mail gateway that is connected to a mail terminal via a network, said method comprising:

receiving, in the mail gateway, an e-mail addressed to a user who possesses the mail terminal and holding a plurality of attached files included in the e-mail;

generating a unique identifier for each of the plurality of attached files held in said holding of the plurality of attached files, respectively;

generating a list of the unique identifiers generated in said generating of the unique identifiers for each of the plurality of attached files, and transmitting the identifier list to the mail terminal;

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receiving an attached-file specifying e-mail transmitted from the mail terminal, the attached-file specifying e-mail including at least one identifier among the unique identifiers generated in said generating of the unique identifiers for each of the plurality of attached files;

acquiring at least one attached file held in said holding of the plurality of attached files, the at least one attached file corresponding to the at least one identifier included in the attached-file specifying e-mail received in said receiving of the attached-file specifying e-mail;

constructing a file attached e-mail by attaching the at least one attached file acquired in said acquiring of the at least one attached file to the attached-file specifying e-mail received in said receiving of the attached-file specifying e-mail; and

distributing the file attached e-mail constructed in said constructing of the file attached e-mail to a respective address of one or more receivers of the e-mail.

33-35. (Cancelled)

36.   (Previously presented) A method for controlling a mail terminal that is connected to a mail gateway via a network, the mail gateway generating a respectively unique identifier for each of a plurality of attached files included in an e-mail addressed to a user of the mail terminal and managing the generated identifiers, said method comprising:

receiving a list of the unique identifiers from the mail gateway for each of the plurality of attached files included in the e-mail;

preparing an attached-file specifying e-mail that includes at least one identifier selected by the user among the unique identifiers from the identifier list as a substitute for at least one attached file that the user wants to attach to the e-mail, the at least one identifier selected by the user corresponding to the at least one attached file that the user wants to attach to the e-mail; and

transmitting the attached-file specifying e-mail prepared in said preparing of the attached-file specifying e-mail to the mail gateway.

37-38. (Cancelled)

39.   (Previously presented) A recording medium which is readable by a computer connected to a mail terminal via a network and to a mail server via another network, the mail server

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receiving an e-mail addressed to a user of the mail terminal and holding a plurality of attached files included in the received e-mail, a computer program embodied on said recording medium causing the computer to conduct operations of:

generating a unique identifier for each of the plurality of attached files held by the mail server, respectively;

generating a list of the identifiers generated in said generating of the unique identifiers for each of the plurality of attached files, and transmitting the identifier list to the mail terminal;

receiving an attached-file specifying e-mail transmitted from the mail terminal, the attached-file specifying e-mail including at least one identifier among the unique identifiers generated in said generating of the unique identifiers for each of the plurality of attached files;

acquiring at least one attached file from the mail server, the at least one attached file corresponding to the at least one identifier included in the attached-file specifying e-mail received in said receiving of the attached-file specifying e-mail;

constructing a file attached e-mail by attaching the at least one attached file acquired in said acquiring of the at least one attached file to the attached-file specifying e-mail received in said receiving of the attached-file specifying e-mail; and

transmitting the file attached e-mail constructed in said constructing of the file attached e-mail to the mail server.

40-42. (Cancelled)

43.   (Previously presented) A recording medium which is readable by a computer that is connected to a mail terminal via a network, a computer program embodied on said recording medium causing the computer to conduct operations of:

receiving an e-mail addressed to a user who possesses the mail terminal and holding a plurality of attached files included in the e-mail;

generating a unique identifier for each of the attached files held in said holding of the plurality of attached files, respectively;

generating a list of the identifiers generated in said generating of the unique identifiers for each of the plurality of attached files, and transmitting the identifier list to the mail terminal;

receiving an attached-file specifying e-mail transmitted from the mail terminal, the

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attached-file specifying e-mail including at least one identifier among the unique identifiers generated in said generating of the unique identifiers for each of the plurality of attached files;

acquiring at least one attached file held in said holding of the plurality of attached files, the at least one attached file corresponding to the at least one identifier included in the attached-file specifying e-mail received in said receiving of the attached-file specifying e-mail;

constructing a file attached e-mail by attaching the at least one attached file acquired in said acquiring of the at least one attached file to the attached-file specifying e-mail received in said receiving of the attached-file specifying e-mail; and

distributing the file attached e-mail constructed in said constructing of the file attached e-mail to a respective address of one or more receivers of the e-mail.

44-46. (Cancelled)

47.   (Previously presented) A recording medium which is readable by a computer that is connected to a mail gateway via a network, the mail gateway generating a respectively unique identifier for each of a plurality of attached files included in an e-mail addressed to a user of a mail terminal and managing the generated identifiers, a computer program embodied on said recording medium causing the computer to conduct operations of:

receiving a list of the unique identifiers from the mail gateway for each of the plurality of attached files included in the e-mail;

preparing an attached-file specifying e-mail that includes at least one identifier selected by the user among the unique identifiers from the identifier list as a substitute for at least one attached file that the user wants to attach to the e-mail, the at least one identifier selected by the user corresponding to the at least one attached file that the user wants to attach to the e-mail; and

transmitting the attached-file specifying e-mail prepared in said preparing of the attached-file specifying e-mail to the mail gateway.

48-49. (Cancelled)

50.   (Previously presented) A program embodied on a computer-readable medium of a computer connected to a mail terminal via a network and to a mail server via another network,

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the mail server receiving an e-mail addressed to a user of the mail terminal and holding a plurality of attached files included in the received e-mail, said program causing the computer to conduct operations of:

generating a unique identifier for each of the plurality of attached files held by the mail server, respectively;

generating a list of the identifiers generated in said generating of the unique identifiers for each of the plurality of attached files, and transmitting the identifier list to the mail terminal;

receiving an attached-file specifying e-mail transmitted from the mail terminal, the attached-file specifying e-mail including at least one identifier among the unique identifiers generated in said generating of the unique identifiers for each of the plurality of attached files;

acquiring at least one attached file from the mail server, the at least one attached file corresponding to the at least one identifier included in the attached-file specifying e-mail received in said receiving of the attached-file specifying e-mail;

constructing a file attached e-mail by attaching the at least one attached file acquired in said acquiring of the at least one attached file to the attached-file specifying e-mail received in said receiving of the attached-file specifying e-mail; and

transmitting the file attached e-mail constructed in said constructing of the file attached e-mail to the mail server.

51-53. (Cancelled)

54.   (Previously presented) A program embodied on a computer-readable medium of a computer that is connected to a mail terminal via a network, said program causing the computer to conduct operations of:

receiving an e-mail addressed to a user who possesses the mail terminal and holding a plurality of attached files included in the e-mail;

generating a unique identifier for each of the attached files held in said holding of the plurality of attached files, respectively;

generating a list of the identifiers generated in said generating of the unique identifiers for each of the plurality of attached files, and transmitting the identifier list to the mail terminal;

receiving an attached-file specifying e-mail transmitted from the mail terminal, the

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attached-file specifying e-mail including at least one identifier among the unique identifiers generated in said generating of the unique identifiers for each of the plurality of attached files;

acquiring at least one attached file held in said holding of the plurality of attached files, the at least one attached file corresponding to the at least one identifier included in the attached-file specifying e-mail received in said receiving of the attached-file specifying e-mail;

constructing a file attached e-mail by attaching the at least one attached file acquired in said acquiring of the at least one attached file to the attached-file specifying e-mail received in said receiving of the attached-file specifying e-mail; and

distributing the file attached e-mail constructed in said constructing of the file attached e-mail to a respective address of one or more receivers of the e-mail.

55-57. (Cancelled)

58. (Previously presented) A program embodied on a computer-readable medium of a computer that is connected to a mail gateway via a network, the mail gateway generating a respectively unique identifier for each of a plurality of attached files included in an e-mail addressed to a user of a mail terminal and managing the generated identifiers, said program causing the computer to conduct operations of:

receiving a list of the unique identifiers from the mail gateway for each of the plurality of attached files included in the e-mail;

preparing an attached-file specifying e-mail that includes at least one identifier among the unique identifiers selected by the user from the identifier list as a substitute for at least one attached file that the user wants to attach to the e-mail, the at least one identifier selected by the user corresponding to the at least one attached file that the user wants to attach to the e-mail; and

transmitting the attached-file specifying e-mail prepared in said preparing of the attached-file specifying e-mail to the mail gateway.

59-60. (Cancelled)

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